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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
Margaret Gladstein, 916-445-4641  
Senator Costa's Office

## **Costa's High Speed Rail Bond Zooms to Governor**

Sacramento – With strong bi-partisan support from the Legislature, Senator Jim Costa's (D-Fresno) high-speed rail bond, SB 1856, was sent to the Governor's desk. "This is a bold and visionary measure," said Costa. "By passing this bill today, we are making the historic step needed to build the nation's first high-speed rail system."

The \$9.95 million bond, if passed by the voters in November 2004, would pay for construction of a high-speed train linking San Francisco to Los Angeles via the Central Valley. The bond also contains funding for improvements to existing intercity rail, commuter rail and transit systems around the state.

The high-speed train will travel at 200 miles per hour and carry passengers from downtown Los Angeles to downtown San Francisco in about 2 ½ hours. Once the San Francisco-Los Angeles connection is made, a statewide system linking all of the major population centers will be built. "By the year 2020, these trains will serve the people of San Diego, the Inland Empire, and Sacramento as well as those in the Bay Area, the Central Valley and Los Angeles," said Costa.

State Treasurer Phil Angelides was a strong supporter of the measure, comparing this with the investments in the state water project and the university system. "With our state projected to grow by over 12 million residents in the next 20 years, we must once again commit ourselves to investing in the infrastructure required to maintain our quality of life and our economic strength," said Angelides. "Building a high-speed train system is fiscally responsible and economically sensible."

SB 1856 will be sent to the Governor's desk and he will have 30 days to sign or veto the bill. "It is my hope the Governor will sign this measure. This will help to solve our transportation problems, create jobs and protect the environment by getting cars off the road," said Costa. "It will make a tremendous difference for the people of our state now – and for generations to come."